

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

HB 1938 - SB 2049

March 31, 2011

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires first or second term offenders who do not have a high school diploma or general education development (GED) diploma to attend GED preparation classes if sentenced to three or more years of incarceration. Offenders must attend GED classes for three years or until they attain a GED diploma. Offenders who do not receive a GED diploma after three years may voluntarily continue GED classes subject to space availability.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

**Increase State Expenditures - \$3,520,000/One-Time
\$1,797,700/Recurring**

Assumptions:

- According to the Department of Correction (DOC), an additional 1,033 offenders meet the criteria of this bill and will be required to attend GED classes. Assuming each class will have an average of 32 offenders, an additional 32 classrooms will be required.
- DOC will hire 32 additional GED teachers, resulting in recurring state expenditures for salary and benefits of \$1,765,670.40 [(\$40,872 salary + \$14,305.20 benefits) x 32 teachers] and an additional \$32,000 (\$1,000 materials x 32 classrooms) in recurring costs for education materials.
- Capital costs for the construction of new classrooms will result in a one-time increase in state expenditures of \$3,200,000 (\$100,000 classroom x 32), and \$320,000 for computer equipment, furniture, and other related supplies (\$10,000 x 32). The total one-time increase in state expenditures will be \$3,520,000 (\$3,200,000 + \$320,000).

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "James W. White".

James W. White, Executive Director

/lsc

HB 1938 - SB 2049